No. 4 – Yosemite-Mariposa Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Yosemite-Mariposa (formerly the Central California) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region was granted conditional acceptance in the 2009 Region Acceptance Process. The conditions were as follows: (1) explore options with the neighboring Madera and Merced IRWM regions on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the area and (2) to continue coordination and communication with the Madera and Merced IRWM regions.

The Yosemite-Mariposa Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) has altered its boundary to coincide with the Mariposa County line, which has removed the overlap with Merced and Madera IRWM regions. Thus, the first condition has been met.

Merced and Madera IRWM regions have submitted draft letters of agreement for the Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG to sign, but because the RWMG does not yet have its final governance structure, it feels it is premature to sign the agreements. The involvement of federal agencies in the governance structure may necessitate special considerations for inclusion in the MOU. The group has been active with a number of partners, including the Yosemite Gateway Partners, Regional Council for Rural Counties, Merced Irrigation District, and Mariposa County and continues to coordinate with neighboring IRWM regions via the establishment on an interregional coordination subcommittee. Thus, through the efforts to coordinate and collaborate with partner groups, the second condition has been met.

The RWMG has sponsored several stakeholder meetings to develop priorities for the region. The meetings have produced a consensus-based 4-tier prioritization scheme of issues to be addressed in the IRWM Plan.

Interview Conclusions - Approved

The Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM region should continue its coordination efforts with neighboring IRWM regions to ensure that IRWM planning and implementation efforts progress in a complementary and coordinated manner.